to the extent of 40 per cent by each trading country. This Convention has entered into force from 6-10-1983. However, in India, it will come into force when necessary legislation to implement the same is made. This is under consideration.

Withdrawal by the British Airways flights from Calcutta

1764. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 454 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th November, 1985 and state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to pursue the British Airways not to withdraw their flights from Calcutta; and

(b) if no steps have been taken by Government, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Since bilateral air operations are governed by considerations of commercial benefits, the Government cannot direct any foreign airline to operate on desired points|routes.

Measures adopted against the Vitamin Deficiency

1765. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Govt's plan to fight various forms of vitamin deficiency among children in the country which precipitate malnutrition;

(b) what are the details of the said plan, if any, and the results achieved; and

(c) if not, whether Government have any scheme to formulate any such plan in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The most prevalent vitamin deficiencies amongst children in our country are Vitamin 'A' deficiency and folic acid deficiency. A National Prophylaxis Programme against blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during the 4th Five Year Plan. Under this Programme children in the age group 1—5 years are given an oral dose of 2 lakh IU of Vitamin 'A' in oil every 6 months.

Under the prophylaxis programme against Nutritional Anaemia, tablets containing iron and folic acid are regulary administered to pregnant and nursing women and pre-school children. In the rural areas these programmes are implemented through the primary health centres and sub-centres and through Child Welfare Clinics, Family Planning Centres, hospitals etc. in urban areas.

Evaluation of the Vitamin 'A' Prophylaxis programme in different states indicated some evidence of reduction of Vitamin-A deficiency. Evaluation of the nutritional anaemia programme is underway.

(c) Does not arise.

Collaboration scheme with Association of Physicians of Indian origin

1766. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a collaboration scheme proposed by the America Association of Physicians from India; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Representatives of the American Indian Medical Association (AIMA) had intimated that they would like to offer